

Public Statements released by Port Commission and City Council members concerning the 11 September joint '*visioning meeting*' held at City Hall.

Port Commissioner Sam Scaffo

At the Septmeber 11th 2014 special meeting of the Port of Port Orford I chose to excuse myself and feel obliged to offer some explanation, as the action I took should be considered unusual at best.

Not long after the call to order it became obvious that many in the public and several elected officials, including myself, were surprised by the announcement of a presentation to be delivered by a private entity. The published agenda was simply not specific enough to anticipate that this principal subject was to be considered.

My departure was to hopefully eliminate a quorum of the Port Commission thus ending a public meeting ostensibly out of compliance with (ORS 192.640 Public Notice Required).

In the days following I learned that the 11 September meeting was an extension of a 09 September “practice meeting” and an ongoing electronic public meeting (as defined by ORS 192.670) amongst a group called “The Friends of the Port”. Whether or not these meetings were subject to public meeting law is a dubious question at best. In any case those that were privy to these pre-running meetings were not surprised by the 11 September agenda while those not on the “list” were confounded.

At the 19 August 2014 regular meeting of the Port it was agreed by consensus to attend a joint meeting with City Council “with the purpose of strategic visioning”. The Commission deliberately rejected that a briefing or facilitation by any other party would occur at the 11 September meeting.

It is acknowledged that compliance with Public Meeting Law (ORS 192) may sacrifice expediency for transparency. And that's fair enough. I acted out of respect to the law, not out of any personal conflict or to protest the presence of anyone.

Port Commissioner Brett Webb

Introduction: ORS 192 – This document is 480 pages in its entirety – government ***transparency*** is vital to a healthy ***democracy***. Public scrutiny helps ensure that government spends tax dollars wisely and works for the benefit of the people – Oregon's Public Records and Meeting Laws underscore the state's commitment to ***transparency***, government records are available to the public, and government bodies must conduct deliberations and make decisions in public.

I would like to read and attach the following letter, penned in ink by my hand, to the minutes of the Port of Port Orford regular board meeting, September 16, 2014.

Regarding special board meeting September 11, 2014, 3:30PM at Port Orford City Hall.

Early in the meeting it became apparent to me ORS 192 was being violated on multiple counts. I attempted to return the meeting to its noticed intent. It was quickly evident the violations (of ORS 192) were to systematically continue at the direction of Commission President Bassett, who acknowledged the illegal status of said meeting. At this time I excused myself in an attempt to break the quorum.

It is with heavy heart that I find myself consequently labeled the villain, rather the man who did the right thing.

City Councilor Caroline Clancy

The meeting on September 11th was supposed to be a chance for the Port & City to discuss a vision for Port Orford. Instead it became apparent that this meeting was solely being used to present Mike Keiser's vision for Port Orford and the South Coast. It was not on the agreed agenda for this meeting, but thrust upon us. Which is totally illegal, ORS 192.640 Public Notice Required. It was an illegal meeting, and so I could not be a part of it. If the meeting had been conducted the proper way as agreed I would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss and listen to the community. We were lied to and set up.

City Councilor Francie MacLeod

Last month a meeting was proposed for the September council meeting in which the Port Commission and the City Councilors were asked to present their vision for the town. The understanding we had was that a structure would be created wherein towns people and out-of-town people could be heard and their ideas considered.

The actual meeting on September 11th turned out to be quite different as Keiser from Bandon Dunes sent his rep to promote their vision while side stepping proper procedure.

Public meetings are specific in their structure and intent and this 'vision presentation' was illegitimate and so removed myself.